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Milwaukee County

SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**WALKER ANNOUNCES THIRD STRAIGHT ALL-TIME RECORD MONTH FOR
GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
943,000 Passengers in August Breaks June and July Records**

MILWAUKEE (October 4, 2010) – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that August 2010 saw a single-month record number of passengers traveling through General Mitchell International Airport. The airport served 943,323 passengers, an increase of 19.89 percent (156,489 passengers) over last August's 786,834 passengers. The August total marks 12 straight months of record passenger growth, and surpasses the previous single-month highs of 922,984 passengers in June and 928,497 passengers in July 2010.

In the first eight months of 2010, the airport has served 6,657,265 passengers, an increase of 29.55 percent (1.5 million passengers) over the same period in 2009.

"Students and families were able to travel on super-low fares in August before heading back to school," Walker said. "VISIT Milwaukee had a good summer convention season, and more and more business travelers are choosing a low-fare ticket to help with their company's bottom line."

Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "There were 43,000 more passengers connecting in Milwaukee this August compared to August 2009, reflecting the growth in our AirTran and Frontier hubs. Milwaukee Mitchell, with a 20 percent growth rate in August, far outpaced the nation's average growth of 1 percent."

Market Data: U.S. Department of Transportation data for 1st Quarter 2010 (most recent) show that the average airfare out of Milwaukee dropped lower than the average at 93 other U.S. airports. Mitchell's average fare was \$98 less than O'Hare's, \$78 less than the nation's average and \$17 less than Midway Airport's. Mitchell's average fare represented the largest quarter-over-quarter drop in the nation at -16.6 percent.

Airports Council International reported (revised) that during the 1st Quarter 2010, growth at Mitchell was exceeded worldwide only by airports in Istanbul, Turkey; Phuket, Thailand and Moscow, Russia, and that Mitchell was the only U.S. airport among the top 30 fastest growing airports worldwide.

With 56 markets, Mitchell has moved up to 28th among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to data recently published by the Brookings Institute. Mitchell's rank in a similar 2004 study was 34th. The new ranking means that more nonstop markets are served out of Milwaukee than out of other Midwestern cities, such as Kansas City; Nashville; Pittsburgh; Indianapolis and Columbus, and out of medium-sized cities elsewhere in the U.S., including Portland, OR; Austin; New Orleans; San Diego; Raleigh/Durham; Albuquerque; San Antonio and Hartford, CT.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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